



Michael Stepek

Partner
Chair, International Arbitration Practice
Admitted to practice only in England & Wales and Illinois

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Michael focuses on international commercial arbitration and litigation, investment treaty arbitration, and complex, high-value disputes. He advises on matters involving the control of corporate entities, foreign direct investment, concession agreements, major infrastructure projects, and joint ventures.

Michael is chair of Winston's International Arbitration Practice and he appears regularly before the leading international forums throughout Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas. He represents clients before numerous international forums in arbitrations conducted pursuant to all the major institutional rules, including ICSID, ICC, LCIA, HKIAC, SCC, and UNCITRAL. Michael has over 30 years of experience in international law conducted pursuant to various institutional rules as well as ad hoc. He also appears as an arbitrator in such disputes.

Licensed to practice in both England & Wales and in the United States, Michael has a particular focus in the energy, power, mining, telecommunications, and transportation industries. He is a member of the firm's Videogame, Gaming and Esports Group dedicated to providing comprehensive legal solutions to companies in these industries.

Michael is renowned as a top-tier practitioner by leading legal directories. In *The Legal 500 UK 2023*, Michael is listed in the “Hall of Fame” for International Arbitration where he is described as “*an extraordinary advocate*”. He has been recommended as a leader in his field by *Chambers Global* since 2009. Sources say “*he is a very concise operator and he has a good understanding of international matters.*” Michael has also been ranked by *The Legal 500 EMEA* and by *The Best Lawyers in Switzerland* in the fields of Arbitration and Mediation, Energy Law, and International Arbitration.

Key Matters

Examples of recent work include:

- Representing Dominion Minerals Corp., a listed U.S. junior mining company, in an ICSID bilingual English-Spanish arbitration concerning Dominion’s claims arising under the treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Panama concerning the treatment and protection of investments arising out of Dominion’s investment in a copper and gold concession in western Panama.
- Representing a Luxembourg company as part of a German public company in a US\$2B dispute with a Saudi Arabian joint venture partner in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration pending in Dubai, UAE.
- Secured a multimillion-dollar victory in a final award on behalf of a Turkish consortium comprised of three of the largest engineering and construction companies in Turkey in an ICC arbitration in Zurich arising out of a supply contract dated 10 June 2010 that was concluded between the consortium and one of the largest manufacturers of tunnel boring machines, which was to supply the consortium with a tailor-made tunnel boring machine, together with related services for use in the excavation of a six-kilometer tunnel as part of the Eskişehir Köseköy high-speed railway project on the segment between Istanbul and Ankara in Turkey.
- Representing two scions of a very well-known private bank in Geneva, Switzerland, in an arbitration proceeding ad hoc in Switzerland in a bilingual French and English arbitration against the former partners of the private bank for having concealed and misappropriated the claimants’ rights to participate as partners in the bank, capital that had been set aside for their entry into the partnership, and their family’s good will dating back to Napoleonic times.
- Represented Professional Football Club CSKA-Sofia JSC in an appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in which our client – one of the most prominent football clubs in Bulgaria – was adverse to the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).
- Represented a listed U.S. company in the medical aesthetics business in a London based LCIA arbitration against PRC respondents which had, inter alia, set up a competing businesses in China and in Hong Kong, operated a confusingly similar website, and infringed his client’s patents and trademarks. In support of these arbitrations, obtained three freezing injunctions (known as Mareva injunctions) from the Hong Kong courts against the respondents’ properties.
- Represented a private equity fund in its defense of claims brought against it in the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre by the PRC corporate group which purchased an automobile component manufacturer in a transaction that spanned three continents.
- Represented a major oil and gas company and its holding company in two arbitrations arising out of alleged breaches of a Shareholders Agreement and Sale and Purchase Agreement between a major English oil and gas company and its joint venture partner, which formed one of the largest oil and gas production companies in the world.
- Represented Virasa Technologies on a US\$700M ICC arbitration in Singapore brought by Korean industrial manufacturer and Hyundai affiliate KCC in relation to a technology transfer agreement for monosilane based polysilicon production technology used in the making of photovoltaic solar panels.
- Represented a Swiss engineering company against a German engineering and construction company in an arbitration in Zurich, Switzerland under Swiss law for the supply and erection of eight air-cooled condensers at

four combined cycle power plants in the United States.

Recognitions

- Ranked in *The Legal 500 UK 2023* in the “Hall of Fame” for International Arbitration
 - Recognized in *The Legal 500 US 2023* for International Arbitration
 - Ranked in *Chambers Global 2022* as an “Expert Based Abroad” in UK for Arbitration
 - Featured as one of 10 practitioners in *Financier Worldwide: Power Players - Distinguished Advisers - International Arbitration 2021*
 - Named in *The Legal 500 International Arbitration Powerlist UK 2019*
 - Recognized in *The Legal 500 Latin America International Firms for International Arbitration (2024)*
 - Named in *BestLawyers* in Switzerland in the fields of Arbitration and Mediation, Energy Law, and International Arbitration
 - Recognized in *Global Arbitration Review (GAR) 100*
 - Recognized in the 2021 and 2023 editions of *Lawdragon 500’s “Leading Global Litigators”*
 - Peer nominated for 2021 Commercial Arbitration Expert Guides
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Activities

Michael is an adjunct faculty member of the Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy, an organization that provides practical trial skills to practicing international arbitration lawyers. Michael is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Institute for Transnational Arbitration and a founder of the Institute for Law and Development Policy, an NGO focused on providing practicing legal practitioners to various publicly and privately funded, rule-of-law programs in post-conflict states.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Michael received a J.D. from the University of Notre Dame and a B.S. from Northern Illinois University.

ADMISSIONS

- England & Wales
- Illinois

Related Insights & News

ARTICLE

Green Hydrogen in Latin America: Opportunities, Challenges and Effective Dispute Settlement Through International Arbitration

APRIL 12, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *Global Arbitration Review's* GAR100 17th Edition

MARCH 22, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston and Yuanda China Law Offices Recognized in *Chambers Global 2024*

FEBRUARY 16, 2024

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Winston Supports SOBAL Conference 2023

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in All Categories of *The Legal 500 Latin America 2024*

OCTOBER 26, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 UK 2024*

OCTOBER 4, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Featured on *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Global Litigators List 2023

JULY 21, 2023

CLIENT ALERT

Winston & Strawn's 2023 Pocket Guide to International Arbitration

MAY 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *Global Arbitration Review's* GAR 100 16th Edition

APRIL 18, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *Chambers Global 2023*

FEBRUARY 17, 2023

ARTICLE

Michael Stepek Profiled in *Financier Worldwide*

JANUARY 30, 2023

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Winston & Strawn Sponsors American Branch of International Law Association's International Law Weekend 2022

OCT. 20-22, 2022

Capabilities

Litigation/Trials

International Arbitration

Commercial Litigation & Disputes

Private Equity

Public Companies

Energy

Financial Services

Oil & Gas